

### **REMARKS**

Claims 3-9, 12-16, 18, and 22-24 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies to reduce fees in this filing. This preliminary amendment also deleted the reference numbers from the claims.

Amendments to the Specification were made to correct some inadvertent errors and to delete extraneous recitations. A new Abstract has been provided.

It is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

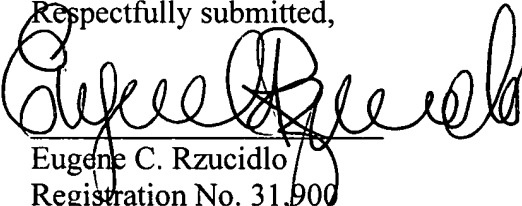
## AUTHORIZATION

If the Examiner believes that issues may be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned at (212) 801-2146. The undersigned may also be contacted by e-mail at [ecr@gtlaw.com](mailto:ecr@gtlaw.com).

No additional fee is believed to be necessary. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

Dated: March 9, 2005

Respectfully submitted,  
  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Eugene C. Rzucidlo  
Registration No. 31,900  
Customer Number: 32361